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PATENT  
450100-02409

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Nobuyuki KIHARA et al.

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Signature

January 3, 2001

Date of Signature

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.56, applicants are filing this Information Disclosure Statement and the accompanying form PTO-1449 along with copies of the prior art therein identified. Such prior art has come to the attention of applicants by being cited in a Search Report issued in the corresponding European application on November 27, 2000.

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So far as applicants are aware, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

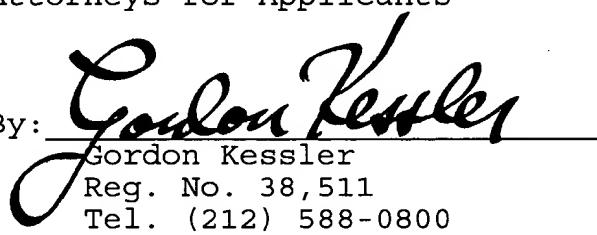
The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the documents identified herein constitute prior art to the present application.

Please charge any fees incurred by the filing of this document or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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